

Costello	Johnson (CT)	Owens
Coyne	Johnson (WI)	Pallone
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor
Davis (FL)	Kanjorski	Payne
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Pelosi
DeFazio	Kennedy (MA)	Porter
DeGette	Kennedy (RI)	Poshard
Delahunt	Kennelly	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Kildee	Rahall
Dellums	Kilpatrick	Reyes
Deutsch	Kind (WI)	Rivers
Dicks	Klecza	Rodriguez
Dingell	Klug	Roukema
Dixon	Kucinich	Roybal-Allard
Doggett	LaFalce	Rush
Dooley	Lampson	Sabo
Ehlers	Lantos	Sanchez
Engel	Leach	Sanders
English	Levin	Sawyer
Eshoo	Lewis (GA)	Saxton
Etheridge	Lipinski	Schumer
Evans	Lofgren	Scott
Farr	Lowey	Serrano
Fattah	Luther	Shays
Fawell	Maloney (CT)	Sherman
Fazio	Maloney (NY)	Skaggs
Filner	Manton	Slaughter
Flake	Markey	Smith, Adam
Foglietta	Mascara	Snyder
Ford	Matsui	Spratt
Frank (MA)	McCarthy (MO)	Stabenow
Franks (NJ)	McCarthy (NY)	Stark
Frelinghuysen	McDermott	Stokes
Frost	McGovern	Strickland
Furse	McHale	Stupak
Gejdenson	McKinney	Tauscher
Gilchrest	McNulty	Thompson
Gilman	Meehan	Thurman
Gordon	Meek	Tierney
Greenwood	Menendez	Torres
Gutierrez	Millender-	Towns
Hall (OH)	McDonald	Velazquez
Hamilton	Miller (CA)	Vento
Harman	Minge	Visclosky
Hastings (FL)	Mink	Waters
Hefner	Moakley	Watt (NC)
Hinchey	Mollohan	Waxman
Hinojosa	Moran (VA)	Wexler
Hooley	Morella	Weygand
Houghton	Murtha	Wise
Hoyer	Nadler	Woolsey
Jackson (IL)	Neal	Wynn
Jackson-Lee	Obey	Yates
(TX)	Olver	
Jefferson	Ortiz	

NOT VOTING—6

Gephardt	Hilliard	Rothman
Gonzalez	Lewis (KY)	Schiff

□ 1446

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1031

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1031.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2158,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 261 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 261

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2158) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 261 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

The conference report for the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998 appropriates a total of \$68.5 billion for fiscal year 1998, which is \$1 billion below the President's request level.

As I mentioned in this House VA-HUD bill debate in July, this legislation continues to meet our obligations to our veterans. The conference report provides \$18.9 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs' discretionary programs, \$17 billion for veterans' medical care, and \$272 million for veterans' medical research, including \$12.5 million for research related to Persian Gulf war illness. We owe a special debt of gratitude to all our veterans, and these appropriations are notable increases above the amounts the President requested.

I am also pleased that scientific research and our space program have been amply funded in this bill. We just marked the 40th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik, and with that in mind, I am pleased that the conferees have committed the United States toward a significant presence in space. The conferees have provided \$2.9 billion for the Space Shuttle Program, \$2.35 billion for the International Space Station, and \$13.6 billion for NASA, which is \$148 million more than the President requested.

I have one last point on the subject of science. I think it is very important to point out that this bill provides \$631 million for science and technology research at the Environmental Protection Agency, including \$49.6 million for particulate matter and ozone research. As proposed regulations are formulated by the EPA, it strikes me that it is high time we base these decisions on information from scientists calculated with scientific analysis.

EPA scientific research funding in this bill, especially funding directed for particulate matter and ozone research, is absolutely necessary at a time when

the American people and American businesses face the prospect of additional regulations concocted without a shred of scientific inspection.

I want to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. JERRY LEWIS] and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. LOUIS STOKES] for the bipartisan manner in which they produced this conference report. It does not appear that there were any major complications during the conference with the Senate, and I am certain their good relationship helped to assure this very productive conference.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule so that we may proceed with general debate and consideration of the merits of this very important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER], for yielding me the customary half-hour and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleagues the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] and the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] for their excellent work on this conference report. I have had the pleasure of working with the gentleman from California and the ranking member on some small parts of this bill and I can tell my colleagues they have done yeoman's work.

They have managed to fully fund American housing and veterans programs as well as the Federal emergency management program and also NASA. The conference committee has done an excellent job taking care of our public housing programs. As someone who grew up in public housing, I can tell my colleagues it is a very important program. It does wonderful things for low-income families, particularly families with children, and I am pleased to see the conference committee agreed to support it.

Mr. Speaker, this country is facing a terrible loss of affordable housing. Three million American families just cannot find affordable housing, and the numbers are climbing. In response to this, the conference report renews all expiring section 8 contracts and preserves affordable housing at a time when we are losing affordable housing. It helps ensure that good housing will still be available to low-income families, it saves money, and it is a very well thought out policy.

The conference report also funds HOME grants to cities and States for building affordable housing. And one of these HOME grants went to the City of Brockton, MA, in my district, which helped 200 people buy homes last year. This year this program should help even more people.

The conference report also helps take care of America's veterans by providing over \$17 billion for veterans' medical care and \$15.5 million for research on Persian Gulf war illnesses.

So thanks to this conference report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is fully funded, as is the Federal